

need for improved geography education. As we have recognized in other areas of education, the only way to truly improve the educational system at a student-level is to help schools use the most effective teaching techniques to increase student knowledge and understanding. Geography education is no exception.

The National Geographic Society Alliance Program is an excellent example of current efforts to improve geography education at the state and local level. Alliances around the country provide teachers with intensive professional development opportunities in geography education, cultivating opportunities for teachers in state-level chapters to collaborate on geography education efforts and to participate in NGS professional development programs. And the success of the National Geographic Society Alliance Program is seen through the achievements of its students—students of teachers who have been involved in the Alliance program have statistically, higher levels of geographic literacy achievement than other students. Promoting proven, effective teaching techniques, such as those developed through the National Geographic Society Alliance Program, will be essential if Congress is to successfully foster greater geographic literacy among American students.

If we are to continue our efforts to develop the most educated citizenry in the world, we must closely examine how we educate our youngest citizens about the world. This resolution is the first step to refocusing attention on the need for geographic literacy and its important role in our children's education.

It is my hope that passage of this resolution will do more than just applaud Andrew Wojtanik's mastery of geography skills—this resolution will reaffirm Congress's commitment to geography and recognize a national public-private partnership dedicated to improving geographic literacy among American students. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join with me in sponsoring this important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO JIM GREGART

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kalamazoo County Prosecuting Attorney Jim Gregart, who is approaching the end of a long and distinguished career of public service. A dedicated and committed individual, Jim has served the communities and families of southwest Michigan for the last 35 years. Through his leadership and enthusiasm to his profession, Jim has helped to make our corner of Michigan an even better and safer place to live and grow.

Since coming to the city of Kalamazoo, Michigan, Jim has been widely known for his extensive charity and dedication to local individuals and the community as a whole. Over his inspiring career, Jim has been devoted to improving the lives of countless individuals who had the fortune of crossing his path. The area is forever in his debt. There is no question that Jim's ardor for the law and betterment of society will be greatly missed.

Jim has been involved in many facets of our local and State community. His contribu-

tion to the improvement to our way of life has been immense. Whether he is dedicating his time and energy to the Kalamazoo Red Cross, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Boys and Girls Club, American Lung Association or Kalamazoo County Humane Society, Jim's work has always been inspirational.

Many words come to mind as one reflects upon Jim's public service to our community. He is selfless, generous, giving, caring, humble, the list goes on. His integrity is impeccable and has long been known as being the standard of fairness and equality. On behalf of the Sixth District of Michigan, I wish Jim and his family all the best in retirement—we are all better off because of his service.

HONORING AMEY STONE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions of Amey Stone, Trustee of the Peralta Community College District, on the occasion of her retirement from 17 years of dedicated service.

Amey has long been active in the areas of government affairs and civic leadership in the East Bay. A resident of Alameda, she has served the city not only as a Planning Commissioner, but also as City Councilwoman and Vice Mayor. Furthermore, she has served by Presidential appointment on a number of national committees specific to women's needs and affairs. In addition to her role as a leader in Alameda County, Amey has also been active in civic affairs in several other countries. Having lived on three continents throughout her lifetime, Amey has been recognized by the Presidents of France as well as Turkey for the contributions she made while living in those countries.

Amey has also led a long and distinguished career as a Trustee of the Peralta Community College District. Elected to her first 4-year term in 1987, Amey has consistently demonstrated her commitment to the improvement of the state of higher education in California. She served for many years not only on the California Community College Trustees' Education and Legislative Committees, but was also a member of the Alameda County School-to-Career Taskforce. Held in high regard by the students in her district, Amey has always been known for her receptive and respectful approach to student concerns and issues. She tirelessly served the District in this capacity for 17 years until her retirement on August 31, 2004.

On September 28, 2004, Amey will be honored in Oakland, California, by the Board of Trustees of the Peralta Community College District. I would like to take this opportunity to commend her exceptional contributions not only to the advancement of higher education in California, but also for her role as a leader in the areas of women's issues and local government. By remaining active in and dedicated to these important areas, Amey has contributed immeasurably to Alameda County and the East Bay, and the 9th Congressional District salutes and congratulates her for her many years of invaluable service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN SANKO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise and pay tribute to journalist John Sanko and thank him for his contributions to Colorado as a political correspondent for the Rocky Mountain News. The level of integrity and honesty that John has shown throughout his 41 years of reporting on Colorado politics is truly exceptional and worthy of recognition by this body of Congress. As John moves on to retirement, let it be known that the citizens of Colorado and I are eternally grateful for the outstanding work he has done covering Colorado politics.

John will be remembered most for the integrity with which he performed his job. He spent 21 years with United Press International before joining the Rocky Mountain News. During his 41 years covering Colorado politics from the Capitol dome, John developed a reputation as top-notch reporter. He was known for his hard work ethic, having never missed a day of work, never filing for overtime, and never taking vacation without some arm-twisting. He was an extremely productive journalist, submitting an average of two stories every workday. John simply loved being a journalist and his presence will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to commend journalist John Sanko for his unwavering commitment to the citizens of Colorado. The enthusiasm he brought to the job, and the contributions he made to the field of journalism, will never be forgotten. It is an honor to recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. I have personally known John for many years, respect him tremendously, and will dearly miss him. Thanks for your service, John. I wish you the very best in your retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained from September 20–24, 2004, due to the death of my mother, Mrs. Minnie S. Bishop. Although I received an excused absence during this period, I missed rollcall votes 457–472. Had I been here I'd have voted as follows:

Roll Nos. 457—"aye"; 458—"aye"; 459—"no"; 460—"aye"; 461—"aye"; 462—"aye"; 463—"aye"; 464—"aye"; 465—"aye"; 466—"no"; 467—"yea"; 468—"yea"; 469—"yea"; 470—"no"; 471—"no"; and 472—"aye."

THE EMERGENCY LOAN ABUSE PREVENTION ACT OF 2004

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Ranking Member of the